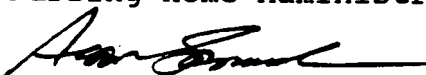


April 14, 1995

MEMORANDUM

TO: Nursing Home Administrators

FROM: 
Alan Samuels, Director
Division of Health Licensing

SUBJECT: Conditions which will allow provider-wide partial exceptions to the requirements of Regulation 61-17, Standards for Licensing Nursing Homes, Sections A.(1)(o) & Y.(7)(a); E.(3)(b); Y.(6)(g); Y.(8)(b); and Y.(13)

R61-17, Section Y.(7)(a) requires that, "A nurses' station shall be provided for each 44 beds or fraction thereof..." We have determined that alternative standards will be acceptable for this and related sections of R61-17. All nursing homes will be required to meet either the standards outlined in R61-17, Section Y.(7)(a) (and related sections) or the alternative standards as indicated:

CURRENT STANDARD	ALTERNATIVE STANDARD
1. A.(1)(o) & Y.(7)(a): A nurses' station shall serve not more than 44 beds. The nurses station shall be located and arranged to permit visual observation of the resident corridors.	A nurses' station shall serve not more than 60 beds. The nurses station shall be located and arranged to permit visual observation of the resident corridors.
2. E.(3)(b): ...If a nursing station serves more than forty-four residents, then that station is required to have at least two licensed nurses on all shifts.	If a nursing station serves more than forty-four residents, then that station is required to have at least two licensed nurses on first shift and at least one licensed nurse on second and third shifts. [NOTE: This provision will not inhibit the Department's authority to require additional staffing when conditions require, R61-17, Section E.(3)(d).]

MEMO TO ADMINISTRATORS
April 14, 1995

CURRENT STANDARD	ALTERNATIVE STANDARD
3. Y.(6)(g): No resident room shall be located more than 120 feet from the nurses' station.	No resident room shall be located more than 150 feet from the nurses' station.
4. Y.(8)(b): At least ten (10) square feet per bed for general storage shall be provided.	Facilities increasing the present bed capacity of an existing nursing unit by up to 15% will not be required to increase storage space, provided the facility currently meets the minimum storage area requirements. Those facilities increasing the present bed capacity of an existing nursing unit by more than 15% must meet the minimum square footage requirements for storage space for the total number of beds on that unit.
5. Y.(13): At least thirty (30) square feet per bed shall be provided for resident dining and recreation.	Facilities increasing the present bed capacity of an existing nursing unit by up to 15% will not be required to increase dining and recreation space, provided the facility currently meets the minimum dining and recreation area requirements. Those facilities increasing the present bed capacity of an existing nursing unit by more than 15%, must meet the minimum square footage requirements for dining and recreation space for the total number of beds on that unit.

MEMO TO ADMINISTRATORS
April 14, 1995

The following information is offered as clarification of items 4 and 5 above:

1. As an example, additional storage, dining and recreation space would not be required where an existing 44-bed unit is increased to 50 beds (under 15%). The minimum square footage requirements as outlined in R61-17, Sections Y.(8)(b), and Y.(13), must be met where an existing 44-bed unit is increased to 51 beds (over 15%).
2. Present bed capacity is the number of licensed beds existing as of April 14, 1995.
3. Once the total bed increment on a nursing unit increases by more than 15% of the present bed capacity then the requirements of R61-17, Sections Y.(8)(b), and Y.(13), must be met for the entire nursing unit.

These exceptions apply to any nursing home licensed by the Department. They relate solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse conditions(s) that may be related to these exceptions may result in revocation of the exceptions by the Department.

If there are any questions, you may call (803) 737-7202.

AS:DG

cc: Douglas E. Bryant
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